

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claims 7 and 8 are canceled by this amendment. Claims 4-6 are withdrawn by the Examiner. Thus, Claims 1-6 are currently pending in this application, with Claims 1-3 being the only claims currently at issue. Claim 1 is the only independent claim.

The Official Action rejects Claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,666,529 B2 to *Mohr*.

Claim 1 is directed to a hydraulic circuit having a hydraulic pump, a hydraulic actuator and an accumulator. The accumulator is fluidly connected between the hydraulic pump and the hydraulic actuator, and has an inflow passage through which hydraulic fluid discharged from the hydraulic pump is introduced into a hydraulic fluid chamber of the accumulator and a discharge passage from which the hydraulic fluid from the hydraulic fluid chamber is discharged to the hydraulic actuator. A valve mechanism restricts the discharge of the hydraulic fluid from the hydraulic fluid chamber to the hydraulic actuator when the pressure in the hydraulic fluid chamber is less than a set pressure and which releases the restriction on the discharge of hydraulic fluid to the hydraulic actuator when the pressure in the hydraulic fluid chamber is at least the set pressure. The valve mechanism has an air discharge passage for discharging air from the hydraulic fluid chamber to the hydraulic actuator in a state in which the accumulator does not operate.

Mohr discloses a vehicle brake system including a gas pressure accumulator. The gas pressure accumulator has a housing 12 with an interior that is divided by

metal bellows 16 and a disk 18, into a gas chamber 20 and a fluid chamber 22. The gas chamber 20 is filled with pressurized gas, and the fluid chamber 22 is filled with hydraulic fluid that is supplied through a feed line 24. The hydraulic fluid is removed from the fluid chamber 22 also through the feed line 24 when the pressure in the feed line 24 drops.

One way in which the hydraulic circuit at issue here differs from the disclosure in *Mohr* pertains to the discharge passage and the inflow passage. In the hydraulic circuit here, the discharge passage is independent of the inflow passage. Claim 1 now recites this aspect of the hydraulic circuit together with the other claimed features. Therefore, generally, the hydraulic fluid discharged from the hydraulic pump is introduced into the hydraulic chamber through the inflow passage and is discharged from the hydraulic actuator through the discharge passage which is independent of the inflow passage.

Mohr does not disclose at least this feature in combination with the other features recited in Claim 1. *Mohr* discloses one feed line 24 that both delivers hydraulic fluid to the hydraulic chamber 22 and removes hydraulic fluid from the hydraulic chamber 22. The one feed line 24 shown in *Mohr* is not a discharge passage that is independent of an inflow passage as defined in Claim 1 together with the other claimed features.

Claim 1 is also amended to further define, in combination with the other features, that the valve mechanism has an air discharge passage for discharging air from the hydraulic fluid chamber to the hydraulic actuator in a state in which the accumulator does not operate.

The hydraulic circuit described in *Mohr* also does not include this feature in combination with the other features recited in Claim 1. The valve arrangement in *Mohr* does not have an air discharge passage for discharging air from the fluid chamber 22 to the hydraulic actuator in a state in which the accumulator does not operate.

For at least the reasons stated above, Claim 1 is allowable. Also, Claims 2-6 depend from Claim 1 and are therefore allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from independent Claim 1. It is therefore requested that all the rejections be withdrawn and that this application be allowed in a timely manner.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

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By: Matthew L. Schneider
Matthew L. Schneider
Registration No. 32,814

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620